

# Unfamiliar Texts

Guess that language feature...

Tell me about the language used...  
(group one)

“a clammy, self-congratulating illiteracy of the  
heart”

(illiteracy of the heart – metaphor)

(emotive word – clammy, evokes images of sweaty uncomfortable hands)

(uncomfortable smug image – self-congratulating)

## **Group two**

“You can’t compete with football, motorcycles, cars, cricket, computer-games, or a plate of chips”

(Personal Pronoun – You – directly involves reader)

(Listing technique – shows us all the things we have to consider. Depends on the context of the piece but can sound impressive or exhausting...)

### **Group three**

“Football? What the hell is this? This isn’t a football, it’s a shoe; a man’s brown leather Oxford”

(Substandard language – Hell)  
(Rhetorical question – draws out attention.  
Sounds conversational...)

## **Group one**

“The sea is an uneven playing field;  
It is the blue eyes of God”

(Metaphor – talk about the effect – comparing the sea to something uneven... unknown... risky?)

## **Group two**

“Do not go gentle into that good night  
Rage, rage against the dying of the light”

(Interesting word order – formal... archaic)  
(Emotive words – Rage... dying)

### **Group three**

“You hold a girl’s face in your hands like a vase”

(Personal Pronoun)

(Simile – vase? Connotations?)

## **Group one**

“Once I biked down Coventry Street all the hours  
of the teenage night”



(teenage night – a metaphor)

## **Group two**

“A flower has blossomed and burst,  
Lying gorgeous on the green grass”

(alliteration – b sound is more forceful, g is much softer)

### **Group three**

‘The day began getting dimmer  
And we began to talk about getting dinner  
We talked about how clothes were getting thinner  
and thinner  
On the people that were passing in the lamplight’s  
glimmer”

(half rhyme – some pattern to it –  
dimmer / dinner / thinner / glimmer)

## **Group one**

“It’s hard to hold the hand of anyone who is  
reaching for the sky just to surrender”

(Sibilance – the ‘s’ sound is repeated within words  
also... soft, slow sound)

## **Group two**

“The dogs you say they fed you to  
lay their muzzles in your lap  
The lions that they led you to  
lie down and take a nap”

(usually fierce animals shown as gentle)  
(good imagery to use in a song that is about how  
things aren't so bad)

### **Group three**

“Beauty walks a razor’s edge, someday I’ll make it  
mine”

(personification)  
(tone is longing...)

“I think I’ll move down into Memphis  
and thank the hatchet man who forked my  
tongue”

(metaphor – a forked tongue

What does it mean to have your tongue forked?

What can't you say? What did the hatchet man do?)

“He was just a numberless man in a chair

Who had just come back from the war”

Why would he be a numberless man?

“His body is a golden string that your body is hanging from”

How do you perceive the dynamics of this relationship?



# WHAT YOU NEED TO REMEMBER

- Use as much space as you are given
- Use the correct terminology
- Answer the questions – don't go off on tangents
- Attempt all questions even if you are not sure
- Think about the title and whether or not it gives you extra clues into the meaning
- Read all extra notes given
- Think about the culture of the piece written... usually a NZ Maori / Pasifika piece
- Think about what they might include – maybe something about elections? Youth issues?